

**Writing Prompt Scoring Guide**  
**Grade 7**

**4 Points**

The paper:

- Has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- Uses paragraphing appropriately.
- Contains a strong controlling idea.
- Progresses in a logical order.
- Uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, parallel structure) between and/or within paragraphs.
- Clearly addresses the topic and provides specific and relevant details/examples.
- Uses precise and vivid language.
- Contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- Effectively uses writing techniques (such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice).
- Clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- Contains few errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling.

**2 Points**

The paper:

- Has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end.
- Shows evidence of paragraphing.
- Contains some sense of direction, but may lack focus.
- May not progress in a logical order.
- At times seems awkward and lacks cohesion.
- Addresses the topic, but may contain some details that are not relevant.
- May use imprecise language.
- Contains sentences that are generally clear, but lack variety in structure.
- May use writing techniques.
- Shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- Contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader.

**3 Points**

The paper:

- Has a beginning, middle, and end.
- Uses paragraphing.
- Contains a controlling idea.
- Generally progresses in a logical order.
- May use cohesive devices.
- Addresses the topic and uses relevant details/examples.
- Uses language that is usually precise.
- Contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure.
- Uses writing techniques.
- Shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- May contain errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not distracting to the reader.

**1 Point**

The paper:

- May lack evidence of a beginning, middle, and/or end.
- May lack evidence of paragraphing.
- Is difficult to follow and lacks focus.
- Does not progress in a logical order, and may digress to unrelated topics.
- Is awkward and lacks cohesion.
- May address the topic, but lacks details.
- Uses imprecise language.
- Contains sentences that are unclear and lack variety in structure.
- Does not use writing techniques.
- Shows little or no awareness of audience or purpose.
- Contains repeated errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization and/or spelling that are distracting to the reader.